

Unto the Right Honourable, The Lords of Council and Session,

The PETITION of George Henderson Merchant in Edinburgh:

Humbly sheweth,

That in the mutual Complaints of Forgery at my Instance against Mrs. M'Leod and John Gibson, and at the Instance of His Majesty's Solicitor against me allenarly; your Lordships were pleased to examine me in Presence, upon the Complaint exhibited by the Solicitor; and likewise Mrs. M'Leod upon my Complaint, and at the same time your Lordships ordained Letters of Diligence for citing of Witnesses for proving the several Facts alledg'd *hinc inde*, and that the Parties should be served with a List of the Witnesses 15 free Days before the 8. of July next.

The close Confinement your Petitioner was under in May last, did very much hinder me from causing make that Inquiry into this hellish and wicked Contrivance against me, as was necessary to have laid the hail Matter before your Lordships at once; however, since your Lordships foresaid judicial Examination of your Petitioner and Mrs. M'Leod, I have been able to Discover the following Facts, which I offer me to prove.

1^{mo}. That the Writs craved to be improven as forged, are the Hand-writing of Household alias Cameron a Servant of Mrs. M'Leod, tho' they are said to be written by me, and the Name George Henderson is the Hand-write of the said Household, who about the date of the pretended Obligation was in use to wear a Sea-man's Habit; but upon the very Day the Obligation is said to be signed, Mrs. M'Leod sent this Household with a Coat of her Husbands, and a black Wig, and brought him to Gibsons in the Canongate, where this Villanous Contrivance was finished; and the Paper signed by Household as personating your Petitioner.

The next Fact that I have discovered is, That Mrs M'Leod's Cabinet was not pointed out by legal Diligence as she affirm'd before your Lordships, but was put in the Hands of James Walker Writer in Leith as a Pledge for a Debt due by her to another Person, for whom Mr. Walker was Doer; this Cabinet contains not only the Receipts lent to her, if any such be, by her Wine Merchants, but likewise as is apprehended several other Writings of this Household her old Servant and Accomplice.

The last Fact which I trouble your Lordships with, is, That when Mrs. M'Leod was apprehended, she or her Husband, who was in the knowledge of all the Transactions, sent word to Household to be gone and fly for his Life; which accordingly he did; but before withdrawing himself, did declare the Cause thereof in presence of famous Witnesses, whom I can condescend upon how soon your Lordships shall order the same.

From the above Facts it will be obvious to your Lordships Consideration, That it is absolutely necessary that this Household alias Cameron her Servant should be secured, and that the Cabinet should be inspected, and such Writs therein found as may give Light in this Matter, should be lodged in your Clerks Hands; And likewise that Warrant should be granted for summoning the proper Witnesses for proving the above Facts.

I beg leave to notice one Thing more to your Lordships, That Mrs. M'Leod is endeavouring by her Application to the Solicitor and the Magistrates of Edinburgh, to be transported from the Tolbooth of Edinburgh, to that of the Canongate; no doubt that Application is with intention to be at greater Freedom to practise and bribe Witnesses to Depone in this Cause, which I am sure your Lordships will never give the least Countenance to; yea, I humbly submit to your Lordships, if it be not more reasonable and necessary, that she should be confined close Prisoner where she is, as Law allows, since she is the only Person who appears to be Guilty.

May it therefore please your Lordships to consider the Premises, and to grant Warrant for inspecting Mrs. M'Leod's Cabinet, in such manner as your Lordships shall appoint, and for transmitting to this Process such Writs as may be found therein, which will give Light in this present Matter, and to grant Warrant to Messengers at Arms for apprehending and securing the Persons of the said Household alias Cameron, and Mrs. M'Leod's own Husband, and for citing of Witnesses to prove the above Facts, and that your Lordships may Discharge Mrs. M'Leods being removed to another Prison. According to Justice, and your Lordships Answer.

JA. COLVILL.